UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.241/55/Add.1
25 June 1996

ENGLISH
Original : ENGLISH

INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR
THE ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN THOSE COUNTRIES
EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR
DESERTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA
Ninth session
New York, 3-13 September 1996
Agenda item 2

DESIGNATION OF A PERMANENT SECRETARIAT AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR ITS FUNCTIONING: ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

Note by the Secretariat

Attached, as indicated in document A/AC.241/55, is the offer of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to provide support services to the Permanent Secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification.

GE.96-62397

96-20145

The Administrator **United Nations Development Programme** **UNDP**

UNSO/INCD

13 June 1996

Dear Mr. Diallo,

Thank you for your letter of 14 March 1996 calling our attention to the INCD resolution 8/2, which in particular requested international organizations such as UNDP to submit in writing, before 1 June 1996, an expression of interest in providing overall administrative support to the permanent Secretariat of the CCD.

Let me start by reiterating UNDP's commitment to support the implementation of the Convention in context of our mission to assist programme countries to realize sustainable human development in line with their national development programmes and priorities. UNDP, particularly through our Office to Combat Desertification and Drought (UNSO), is already providing substantive support to the preparation and implementation of the Action Programmes at National, Sub-regional and Regional levels, particularly in Africa, and will intensify this support in the future. This will continue to be our primary preoccupation.

In addition we have already indicated our willingness to host the Global Mechanism of the CCD if the Conference of the Parties requests us to serve in that capacity. We have also continued to collaborate closely with the Interim Secretariat of the CCD and expect this working relationship to intensify as implementation of activities gathers momentum with the entry into force of the Convention. In this regard, we see UNDP supporting the work of the Permanent Secretariat through the following:

- Assistance of UNDP field offices to support outreach aspects of the work of the Secretariat;
- Technical backstopping to complement some aspects of the work of the Secretariat, including through enhancing the capacity of the Secretariat by periodically seconding staff on full or part-time basis as appropriate;
- Facilitate the work of the Permanent Secretariat particularly relating to information collection and reporting, through UNDP field offices.

Mr. Hama Arba Diallò
Executive Secretary
Interim Secretariat of the
Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD)
CH-1219 Châtelaine, Geneva

We recognize that the above areas of support do not exactly respond to the eed for an organization to provide "overall administrative support to the ermanent Secretariat" as stated in the aforementioned resolution. We also note he readiness of other relevant organisations, such as UNEP and WMO to host the ecretariat as expressed in their respective statements to the INCD. It might well e that the kinds of services proposed by UNSO, could be provided as "adjunct to verall arrangements" between the Conference of the Parties and the United Nations ystem and/or any of its organizations.

Yours sincerely,

James Gustave Speth